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The Urban District of Kirkham

Annual Health Report

for the Year 1963

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Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson

Councillor L. D. Jackson

Councillor O. Aiken, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. A. Danson

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Councillor J. Whiteside (Woodlands)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:
E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:
R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk: N. Swift, A.CC.S.

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Annual Health Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

There is nothing outstanding to report. The year has been one of steady routine work. Notified infectious illness has been low, consisting only of forty-five cases of Measles and eleven of Dysentery.

Both the Birth Rate and Death Rate are slightly up on 1962 figures but show no really significant move.

My thanks are again due to Mr. Hall and Mr. Swift for ready co-operation in the Department and also to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Health Committee for your interest and support.

Yours faithfully,

C. ROBERTSON WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population (at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1962 was 5,290).	5,860
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/63	1,712
Rateable value at 31/12/63	£160,967
Amount produced by a penny rate	£653

VITAL STATISTICS

Births—97 live births (50 males and 47 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 18.2 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 15.7 per 1,000 in 1962. Illegitimate live births totalled 5.15% of total live births.

Stillbirths—There was one stillbirth during the year making a stillbirth rate of 10.2 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 20.3 in 1962.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 98.

Deaths—64 deaths (33 males and 31 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 13.2 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 12.2 per 1,000 in 1962.

Infantile Mortality—2 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 3 in 1962.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was Nil.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was Nil.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1963.

Cause of Death	*M.*	*F.*	*T.*
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	5	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	4	11
Other Heart Disease	5	2	7
Other Circulatory Disease	—	2	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	11	18
	33	31	64

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

	England & Wales		*Kirkham Urban District*	
Year	*Births*	*Deaths*	*Births*	*Deaths*
1959	16.5	11.6	13.6	13.3
1960	17.1	11.5	12.6	10.0
1961	17.4	12.0	14.7	12.9
1962	18.0	11.9	15.7	12.2
1963	18.2	12.2	18.2	13.2

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:—

Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Other appointment held: Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector:

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H.., M.A.P.H.I.

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Hospital Facilities—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities—The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:

Monday, a.m.—Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Tuesday, a.m.—Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m.—Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m.—Immunisations (third and fourth Thursdays in each month).

Thursday, a.m.—Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m.—Smallpox Vaccination (second Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m.—Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m.—Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1963.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified													
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever														
Whooping Cough														
Acute Poliomyelitis:— Paralytic														
,, Non-Paralytic														
Measles (excluding Rubella) ...	45	1	6	10	4	9	14			1				
Diphtheria														
Dysentery	11			2		1	4	1		3				
Meningococcal Infection														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)														2
Smallpox														
Acute Encephalitis—Infective ...														
,, Post-Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fevers...														
Erysipelas														
Food Poisoning														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Other notifiable diseases														
TOTAL	56	1	6	12	4	10	18	1	0	4	0	0	0	2

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality during 1963

	New Cases				*Deaths*			
	Pulmon'y		*Non Pulmon'y*		*Pulmon'y*		*Non Pulmon'y*	
Age Periods	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1		0		0		0	

In 1962 there were no new cases notified, and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth annual report.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the number of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc.

Water Closets	1,860
Waste Water Closets	1
Pail Closets	1
Privy Closets	0
Privy Ashpits	0
Dry Ashpits	0
Dustbins	1,950
Cesspools	0
Septic Tanks	15
Houses not connected directly to sewer	15
Houses on Water Carriage System	1,712
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	99.99
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System	98.07

Sewers and Sewerage System—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewerage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Sixty-seven new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams—One main stream – Wrongway Brook – runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert, and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. No complaints were received concerning the water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received—419 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council houses for repairs requiring attention. 701 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 279 nuisances were discovered, of which 265 were abated, leaving 14 to carry forward to 1964. 241 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was one. In the main, most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. Advantage is being taken to improve old property under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

DISINFESTATIONS

No houses were disinfested during 1963. The method of treatment would be by D.D.T. spray and/or D.D.T. or similar type of smoke generator. In the case of bugs a combination of the two methods—spraying first, followed by smoke generators—has proved most effective. Free issues of insect powder are available, and no charge is made for disinfestation in the area of private dwelling houses.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases, and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfection of premises. One house was disinfected. Library books were collected from houses where infectious disease occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected on occasion and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades within the district.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There were two caravan sites licensed during 1963, for permanent residential use and it is estimated that some thirty-five caravans were permanently occupied by 80 residents. Revised conditions have been attached to one site licence during 1963.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The factories in this district were visited and consultations made with the boilermen in an attempt to improve the smoke nuisance. Few complaints were received and no observations were taken on chimneys. No legal actions were taken.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

During the year no further applications from persons to be registered as Dealers in Old Metals under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were received.

Certificates for means of escape in case of fire are now given by Lancashire County Council Fire Department.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. They have one fore and aft tipper type wagon engaged regularly on this work and the tractor is used for levelling the tip and collecting salvage.

Disposal is carried out at Carr Lane and Coronation Road tips. The soil is first removed by dragline and then replaced on top as the tips proceed. Some two acres of reclaimed land are let to a farmer and several successful crops have been grown. The old destructor was retained in use for burning unsound meat, unsalvageable paper and factory wastes.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:—

5 Ashbinmen 1 Salvage Baler 1 Driver	Full-time
2 Salvage Collectors 1 Tractor Driver	Part-time

Additional labour has been engaged from time to time on salvage collection and baling.

No serious labour difficulties have been met with in the past year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a weekly collection without increasing the cost of collection. The district is growing rapidly and so far as refuse collection is concerned every new property consists of a drive with a long walk to collect a bin—the time taken to empty bins on new properties is almost treble that of terrace-type dwellings. The salvage available for collection is continually increasing and its collection can occupy the tractor, driver and two men for up to three days per week. This means that for at least half of every week, 10 of the Council's 15 workmen are fully engaged on refuse and salvage and the time is rapidly approaching when the whole system must be reviewed as it is fast becoming impossible to find sufficient men to carry out general road works, etc.

The bonus scheme for the men continued. All waste paper was sent to Thames Board Mills Ltd., under contract. Loose tins continued to be baled but none were sold during the year.

The total income during the year from the sale of salvage was £996.

The tonnage salvaged was as follows:—

	Tons	*Cwts.*	*Qtrs.*	*Lbs.*
Waste Paper (all grades)	106	6	3	6
Rags	9	18	2	18
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc.	6	18	1	14
	123	3	3	10

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where foodstuffs were handled or sold.

The number of visits made to food premises during the year, including the slaughterhouse, was 160.

Some minor improvements have been made to food premises, most of which were carried out as a result of informal action. This work is proceeding. Follow-up visits have been made.

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

10 lbs. Cooked Boneless Ham; 6 lbs. Rolled Ox Tongue; 10 lbs. Lamb Liver.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the district. All meat is inspected and the premises are satisfactory. The owners of this slaughterhouse have been most co-operative and improvements are being made from time to time.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	253	—	4	691	360
Number inspected	253	—	4	691	360
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	77	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	30.43%	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat condemned (including offal) was 1,050 lbs.

Milk Supply and Distribution—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to the surrounding districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered distributors is as follows:—

Dairies in the district	8
Shops in the district other than dairies	5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "specially designated" milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

Ice Cream—There was one registration for the manufacture of ice cream. The premises have been inspected and always found to be well run and maintained. Thirty dealers are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. The general standard of vehicles and equipment is high. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—Four premises are registered to manufacture made-up meat products. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Food sampling by the County Council—A total of 63 samples was obtained, consisting of 46 samples of milk (1 of which was Channel Islands milk) and 17 others comprising:—

1 Ice-cream	1 Cheese
1 Nuts	1 Ground rice
1 Fried hamburger patties with gravy, canned	1 Coffee extract, dry
1 Mincemeat	2 Fish paste
1 Vinegar	1 Herbs, dried, sage
1 Double cream	1 Plain flour
1 Biscuits	1 Laxative
	2 Potato crisps

The following are details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 1.3% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned. Further sample obtained.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 1.5% extraneous water.	—do.—
1 Milk, Channel Islands	Contained 0.05 international units penicillin per ml.	Dairy and Milk Marketing Board informed.
1 Milk	Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Dairy informed.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 0.3% extraneous water. Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Vendor cautioned. Milk Marketing Board informed re penicillin.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 1.0% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned. Further sample obtained.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 1.0% extraneous water.	—do.—
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated 0.3% extraneous water.	Further sample obtained.
1 Potato crisps	Fat 52.7%, starch 37.6%, starch on fat free 80.1%.	Packer communicated with.
1 Potato crisps	Fat 50.4%, starch 39.2%, starch on fat free 79.4%. When allowance is made for the fat content, there is no evidence that the crisps are starch reduced, therefore claims made that product is "Starch Reduced" and "Less Fattening" are misleading.	Packer communicated with.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) **Factories** in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) **Factories** not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	29	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	40	29	1	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	2	2	2	—
Total	2	2	2	—

RAG-FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. No samples were taken. The amount of this material used is very small.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Five visits were made in connection with the Shops Act.

RODENT CONTROL

Thirty-two properties infested with rats or mice were treated during the year by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were baited and 8 takes were recorded.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 34,000 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts, and no new premises were licensed.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,712
Number of new houses erected during the year:	
(a) By the Local Authority	0
(b) By other bodies or persons	167
Number of houses demolished during the year ...	0
Number of houses closed during the year	1
Number of persons displaced	3
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	3
Number of houses in which improvement works were completed during the year	1
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	32
Number of houses at which standard grant works were completed during the year	33

Housing Conditions—The general housing conditions are fair, most houses being small to medium size two and three bedroom types. There is quite a proportion of older property in the district suitable for improvement and it is felt that more advantage could be taken of improvement grants to bring property up to a reasonable standard.

There are sufficient houses being erected in Kirkham by private enterprise to cater for the existing demand if the persons needing accommodation could afford them. As it is there is still a waiting list for Council Houses and some 30—40 two and three bedroom types would be required to cater for the deserving cases on the list.

Plans have been approved for Old Persons' Bungalows and tenders invited. It is hoped that a start on building them will be made in 1964.

The district is rapidly being built up and most sites where there is planning permission for housing development will be completed within the next few years. Building will then have to cease unless more land is made available.

The Council have continued to stand as guarantors for persons buying properties through Building Societies, but during the year no advances to prospective buyers were made due to the high rates of interest prevailing.

GENERAL

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of highways, supervision of new buildings, street lighting, parks, baths and recreation grounds. The Department will endeavour to proceed with the making-up of all unmade streets as soon as the Council authorise same.

A growing problem in the Department is that of Housing Management, there being a total of almost 300 houses to be managed. As the houses become older the repairs must increase and inspections, orders, accounts, etc., for these houses are responsible for occupying an ever increasing amount of my staff's time.

STAFF

My thanks are expressed for the efficient service rendered by Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk of the Department, and to other members of the Staff, the Foreman and all Workmen go my thanks for their excellent and willing co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. HALL.

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